

being the only one open, besides the Dutch, they climbed the fence in desperate search for a way out. Their cries for help burned his soul. He frantically sought permission three times from his ministry in Japan. Each time he was refused. Finally the fourth time he was ordered to close the consulate. Time had run out.

How could he turn his back on these people and their agony? If he did not help, we knew they would die. Talking to his wife and to his five year old son, together they decided they had but one course to take. They had to help. They knew the risks and personal dangers. But not to help was to condemn these families to certain death in the dreaded ovens of hate. For the next 29 days until the consulate was ordered closed this time by the Russians, he wrote out by hand 2138 visas at the rate of 300 a day, issuing them in the last day from his hotel room and at the train station as he was departing from Lithuania.

History tells us that his act of honor and personal sacrifice saved the lives of upwards of 10,000 Jews.

Acting against the explicit orders of his government, he did what his conscience cried out to do. Chiune Sugihara knew he had the paper, the pen and a noble purpose. Each parchment upon which he placed his seal was a license to live.

His disobedience is immortalized by the thousands of lives he saved. He took the rare and unexpected route of personalizing the curse of war and hatred and choosing to save lives. His story is a remarkable drama of courage.

We understand that a diplomat is required to follow unquestioningly all orders of his government. We understand there can be no exceptions or substitutions of personal judgment.

Consul General Sugihara acted with extraordinary clarity of personal responsibility. He served his government with great honor and tragically he was not accorded that recognition by his government during his lifetime. Stripped of his diplomatic badge, he struggled to provide for his family after the war ended. He sold light bulbs on the streets, worked in a US PX, and finally was hired to work in Moscow far away from his family. His village erected a statue for him, a garden of cedars bears his name in Jerusalem, and a street reads his name in Lithuania. But in the official records of his government there is yet to be placed that wreath of honor and tribute for Chiune Sugihara.

I turn my thoughts to Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara. And ask her to come to the podium to present her remarks. With my warmest personal Aloha and affection, may I present Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara.

BALANCED BUDGET PLAN IS REAL ISSUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to briefly make a couple of points, and I do not think I will take all the 5 minutes, but I wanted to read just the first part of an amazing story that was in the Washington Post just this morning. The Washington Post is certainly no conservative publication, it is no Republican newspaper. In fact, its political policies are considered to be very liberal, and yet this morning they had a news analysis by two of

their staff writers, and the headlines said this: Balanced Budget Plan is Real Issue.

Let me repeat that, that the Washington Post said this morning, "Balanced Budget Plan is Real Issue," and then the story says this for the news analysis:

For all the vitriol, all the finger-pointing and all the carefully staged, photogenic events, the current bickering between the White House and Capitol Hill has very little to do with the actual bills in question. The real issue is not Medicare premiums, temporary approval to spend government money or even the government debt limit—it is the coming confrontation over the Republicans' plan to balance the budget by 2002.

For congressional Republican leaders—especially those in the House—the goal is getting the president to the table to negotiate a deal on their terms to wipe out the deficit in seven years.

Now this is from the Washington Post, and they say the real issue is the balanced budget. Our Republican leaders went to the White House last night with no preconditions. The only thing they have said, they said they will be willing to negotiate anything except they want the budget to be balanced within 7 years. Most of the people around this country think that we really should be able to do it much faster than that, and I can tell you that I think almost anyone with ordinary common sense and average intelligence probably could come here and balance the budget much faster than 7 years, but with all the competing interests involved, that seems to be the best that we can do. But I am sure there are many people across the country tonight who are sitting there thinking, "Well, yes, the balanced budget would be good, but would it really make a difference to me?" and I say to them that, yes, it would because almost every leading economist in this country tells us that this \$5 trillion national debt we have is like a gigantic chain hanging around the neck of our economy. It is holding us back.

Mr. Speaker, times are good now for some people, but they could and should be good for everyone if we had handled our fiscal affairs in a better way and we were not so deeply, deeply in debt. People making \$5 and \$6 an hour could and should be making \$10 or \$12 an hour. In addition to that, while we do not have much of an unemployment problem, Mr. Speaker, we have a tremendous underemployment problem. We have many college graduates who cannot find jobs except in fast-food restaurants and jobs like that, and that should not be, Mr. Speaker, and things could be so much better if we would get our fiscal house in order and try to balance our budget, and the downside of it is, if we do not, we are headed for some major economic problems in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, we frequently say that what we are talking about doing, that it is for our children and grandchildren, and, yes, it certainly is. But it is also for the people who are in the

prime of their life right at this time because we are headed for very serious problems, not in the distant future, but in the near future. The President's own trustees over Medicare have said, they said in their report issued in April, that the Medicare system was going to be broke in 6 or 7 years if we do not do something. A few months ago the Office of Management and Budget, the President's own Office of Management and Budget, put out a memo that said that by the year 2010, if we do not change things, we will have annual yearly deficit losses each year of over a trillion dollars a year, and by the year 2030, Mr. Speaker, have over \$5 trillion a year.

Mr. Speaker, if we have losses, yearly losses, of \$5 trillion, we would absolutely destroy the standard of living of our children and grandchildren. They could not buy a tenth of what we buy today.

In 1994, last year, Paul Tsongas, the former Senator from Massachusetts who was a liberal Democrat when he was in the House and Senate, he wrote an article for the Christian Science Monitor, and he said that the young people of today will pay average lifetime tax rates of an incredible 82 percent if we do not make some changes. Is this what we want to do to our children and grandchildren, make them become, as he put it, indentured servants for the Government? I do not think there is anybody out there who wants us to do that.

James K. Glassman wrote a few days ago in the Washington Post a column entitled "The No-Cut Budget." He pointed out that under our budget that we passed in both the House and Senate, the so-called Republican budgets, there are no cuts, that each year Federal spending goes up about 3 percent. It increases about \$50 or \$60 billion every year.

Medicare, we have gotten into that, and that is the second big point I want to make. We did not cut Medicare. We have not cut Medicare. In fact what we have passed is to give huge increases in Medicare spending. In my own State of Tennessee Medicare spending goes up from a little over \$5,000 a year to over \$7,000 a year at the end of this time.

We need to get this message out, Mr. Speaker, because the American people are being fooled by lies, distortions, and propaganda at this time, and I certainly hope they do not fall for it.

AMERICANS HURT BY GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise to speak tonight about the shutdown of the Government and what it means in human terms to thousands and thousands of people around the country and to say to Members that this is a very serious action that we

really do have to remedy in the very near future because lots and lots of people are being hurt, and, as each hour and day passes, more, and more, and more people will be hurt and damaged by the failure of this Congress to come forward with a continuing resolution.

Just on day 1, 28,000 of America's seniors and workers have been unable to apply for Social Security or disability benefits. The Social Security offices are not open because of the furlough that happened today, and that simply means that people who have reached the age of 62 or 65 and wanted to apply today for these benefits were not able to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. THURMAN].

Mrs. THURMAN. I just thought of a little story that happened just recently in Ocala, FL. This is a very interesting story. It was their 30th anniversary of being there and they asked us to come in and we did, and we talked about all the kinds of things that were going on, and we looked at their new computer systems and how quickly they were able to answer questions. But what they had was an office full of folks out in the front area.

□ 1945

I said, "What are all those folks doing there?" They said, "Well, they have come here because they have a problem with their Social Security, they did not get their check. We are trying to track it down. They are trying to get on the service themselves," all these different things that these folks come to these Social Security offices for.

Let me tell you what the mayor of the city of Ocala said in the resolution, in recognizing their 30-year anniversary. They bring into that city \$45 million a month, a month, to help. That helps that economy within that city. Those folks are not there today, and they are very, very concerned about what is going to happen to those people and their benefits.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I thank the gentlewoman for that story and contribution. I am sure that as the days roll on here, we are going to have hundreds and hundreds of stories of individuals who have had real problems in their life because of our inability to continue these needed government services.

Two hundred thousand of America's seniors today have tried to get the 1-800 help line for Social Security and have gotten no answer; 7,649 of America's veterans have been unable to file compensation pension and education benefit claims or adjustments.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, the first thing that happened to me this morning, it was a very sad case. A woman in my district's son who was a police officer in New Orleans, non-related, was killed. She just brought his body home and he has been buried.

The first thing that happened this morning was she was very concerned about her other son, who lives in New Orleans, who is in the Marines. She is concerned about his life. Had we not been there to answer the phones this morning, us, to help this young man get through the system, which we have done, we have told him how to do it, who he has to go talk to, and potentially how to get a hardship case to be brought back or taken and transferred to someplace else, his mother for the first time will probably have some comfort that somebody is working on that.

These are not veterans, but they are military, and they are part of the system of defense of this country that we are ignoring. They have problems that they come to us and to our staffs with all the time.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I thank the gentlewoman again.

What I want to say to the Members tonight, Mr. Speaker, and I do not have enough time left to go through more stories, but what I hope that we can do in the days ahead is two things: One, tomorrow I will be circulating among Members two pieces of legislation and asking for their cosponsorship. One will be a 24-hour continuing resolution, and the other will be a 48-hour continuing resolution. I hope to get as many Members as cosponsors as we can possibly get.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I hope to bring to the floor continuing facts and information on what is happening out in the country as a result of our failure to move forward with this continuing resolution. This is a manufactured crisis. This does not need to happen. I understand we have a dispute about the budget, I understand that both sides feel strongly about their views. I will not take the time tonight to go through the views that are on this side. But I must report that we do not need to manufacture a crisis in order to bring about a solution to that problem. No one needs leverage in this discussion.

The Republican side has all the leverage they need. They have a majority in the Congress. They can pass the legislation that they want to pass. The President has a veto. The President can veto bills or sign bills. Then we have to bring bills back and send them downtown to try to get them signed.

But to make innocent Americans the victims of our inability to solve this disagreement is simply morally wrong. We should not be doing it, there is no excuse for it, there is no reason that in the days ahead we should not be passing at least a 24-hour continuing resolution. If people are then unhappy about the pace of the talks and the negotiations, they can then vote against the next 24-hour continuing resolution, but we ought to give the American people what they have paid for, which is the services that these kinds of veteran's offices and Social Security offices are there to bring.

We will be trying, through the endorsement of these two pieces of legislation, we will try to get on the floor and ask unanimous consent three or four times a day to bring up these pieces of legislation for 24 hours or 48 hours of continuing resolution. We must continue to say to people what is happening, and we must continue to try to bring the situation, which is unexplainable and intolerable and totally morally wrong, to the attention of the American people, so that if people feel strongly about this, they will contact their representatives, we will get the votes to pass one of these bills, and we will get these offices reopened which are so important to the American people.

LET US BALANCE THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we are facing a dilemma here in the United States. It is called the Federal debt. This chart shows the Federal debt, the amount of money that is included. It is just close to \$5 trillion. It is 4 trillion, 985 billion, 3,913 million, and on and on and on. I want to give you an idea just how much money that is. If you had gone in business the day Christ rose from the dead and lost \$1 million that day and every day until today, you would only be one-fifth of the way to losing this much money, one-fifth of the way in almost 2,000 years.

The problem is now the linchpin of the struggle between the President and his liberal supporters and the American people and their Representatives in Congress. The American people want a balanced budget. The House and the Senate have passed provisions to balance the budget and continue Government, but the President, Mr. Speaker, the President has chosen to shut government down.

This is very clear. The President does not want a balanced budget. The American people and Congress do want a balanced budget. Let me show you what the President has offered. His budget that was sent to Congress over the next 10 years never does balance. In fact, when you get out to the last year, 2005, it is \$200 billion in deficit. I have a contrasting chart that shows the difference between what we are doing with the Congress, this is the blue line that starts here and goes down to a balanced budget by the year 2002, and the President's budget, which continues at about a \$200 billion deficit every year. It is kind of like my uncle, John Armstrong, says: "If you don't want to do something, any excuse will do."

Mr. President, we are tired of you looking for excuses. The President says, "Send me a clean continuing resolution, a clean debt limit ceiling, and I will start government up again." But let us look when the liberals controlled